The Journal

OF THE

Jamaica Agricultural Society.

VOL. XIV. MARCH, 1910. No. 3.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

As there was no business of sufficient and pressing importance to warrant calling a meeting of the Board in the month of February no meeting was held. The next meeting of the Board will be held on March 10th.

HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING.

THE Half-yearly General Meeting of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the office of the Society, No. 11 North Parade, on Thursday, 20th January, 1910, at 11.40 a.m.

His Excellency the Governor presided and there were present: His Grace the Archbishop, Bishop Collins, Hon. L. J. Bertram, H. H. Cousins, George McGrath, R. P. Simmonds, Messrs. D. Campbell, Robert Craig, A. C. L. Martin, J. R. Williams, C. W. Magnan, W. A. McLennan, W. Harris, Geo. A. Payne, H. Q. Levy, E. Arnett, R. V. Malabre, J. Hirst, M. V. Heron, Jno. Lockett, H. J. Rushie Grey, J. Briscoe, H. Stead, Col. Moulton-Barrett, A. D. Goffe, Mrs. Bourne, and the Secretary, Jno. Barclay.

The following representatives of Branches attended: Rev. F. Weiss (Christiana), Rev. F. Gartshore, M.A., (Hanover), A. B. Ventresse (Sav.-la-Mar), A. P. Hanson (St. Faith's, Glengoffe), R. A. Jones (Aeolus Valley), E. A. McNeill (Troja).

His Excellency the Governor said that was the half-yearly meeting of the Society, and it had been called to receive the report and review the proceedings of the half-year which ended on the 30th September last, but he would not exclude any topics of discussion arising in the last quarter of the year just closed. The general meeting had been called in advance of the meeting of the Board of Management on this occasion so as to give members from the country districts an opportunity of raising any points for discussion which they wished to refer to without giving the trouble of waiting as on former occasions, while the Board did its business. The Board of Management would postpone its business until after the general meeting was held, but those who wished to speak at the meeting were asked to remember that the Board had a certain amount of business to get through and not to be too diffuse in what they had to offer. Speaking generally he thought they might congratulate themselves upon the advance that had been made during the last half-year of those interests which the Agricultural Society existed to foster. The country had, to a great extent, recovered from the period of drought which it had been passing through. There had been, on the whole, good seasons and abundant crops, and so far as his observation went, the recent Agricul-

tural Shows showed an increase in popularity, an increase in the quality of exhibits, and an increase in the financial results. That showed that the Agricultural Society was going ahead and not losing ground. They had met there that day to receive suggestions from country members which would tend to the greater efficiency of the Agricultural Society, and to enable it to carry on the increased work which he saw the condition of the country was going to demand of it in the coming year.

The first business was the confirmation of the previous minutes as published in the JOURNAL for August, 1909, copies of which were in their hands. These were confirmed.

The Chairman said they had also before them copies of the Society's report for the half-year ending 30th September, 1909, as follows:—

I have the honour to submit my report on the business for the first half of the financial year. ending 30th September, 1909, as follows: —

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.—During the six months there were held five meetings of the Board, one General Meeting, four meetings of Instructors' Committee, and one of the Finance Committee. Papers for consideration have been as usual, in regular circulation among members of the different Committees.

The attendance of the members of the Board for the half-year was as follows:—

	Ordinary	Half-year	Total
*His Excellency Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G.	2	1	3
Hon. P. C. Cork	1	1	2
Hon. Lieut. Col. C. J. Ward	–	–	–
*Hon. Dr. Pringle	5	1	6
Hon. L. J. Bertram	4	1	5
His Grace the Archbishop	–	–	–
His Lordship Bishop Collins	2	–	2
Robert Craig	5	1	6
D. Campbell	4	1	5
*Hon. H. H. Cousins	–	–	–
*A. W. Douet	1	–	1
C. A. T. Fursdon	4	1	5
*E. A. H. Haggart	–	–	–
Hon. George McGrath	1	–	1
A. C. L. Martin	5	1	6
*E. W. Muirhead	2	–	2
H. T. Ronaldson	2	–	2
J. Shore	1	1	2
Hon. R. P. Simmonds	3	1	4
*J. R. Williams	1	–	1
Conrad Watson	3	–	3
William Harris	4	1	5
John Barclay	5	1	6

SOUTH MANCHESTER.—The matter of the distressed conditions in South Manchester and South-east St. Elizabeth arising from the effects of the drought (a report on which had been made by Mr. Palache at the request of the Government and referred to the Board for suggestions as to how to deal with the conditions) was considered and a report made (JOUR-

*These members were off the Island for a period:—His Excellency Sir Sydney Olivier, the Hon. P. C. Cork, acting as Chairman in his absence; the Hon. Director of Agriculture, Mr. William Harris acting during his absence; Hon. Dr. Pringle and Hon. George McGrath, Messrs. A. W. Douet, C. A. T. Fursdon, E. A. H. Haggart, E. W. Muirhead and J. R. Williams.

NAL for May 1909), which was submitted to the Commission appointed to visit the districts and hold an enquiry. To carry out the recommendations made by the Commission, the Legislative Council voted the sum of £250 to help these districts, which amount is being administered by the Society. A new Agricultural Instructor was appointed for these districts alone; three Central Experiment Stations have been inaugurated for testing different crops and different methods of growing crops suitable for these districts; seeds and plants have been distributed to help cultivators to make a start again, and some small stock has been provided. The Board also made a grant from its funds of £25 to enable the Instructor to take over small plots on settlers' own lands and work them as experimental plots.

COTTON INDUSTRY.—A special Committee of six members was appointed to go into the whole matter of growing cotton in Jamaica and, after circulation of papers on the subject, met; a report was prepared as agreed upon by the majority of those present at the meeting. Three members of the Committee were in favour of further effort being made to establish an industry, viz., the Archbishop, Mr. Ronaldson and Mr. Conrad Watson, two were of the opinion that cotton could not be successful in Jamaica, viz., the Director of Agriculture and Mr. T. H. Sharp, and Mr. Shore, while of opinion that cotton-growing could be made a successful industry, was not in favour of any propaganda among small settlers.

The Board having already voted £10 for carryiug out small experiments in growing cotton in St. Elizabeth and Trelawny on small settlers' own lands, and having a donation of £15 from the British Cotton Growing Association in hand, resolved to carry out the experiments.

The cotton crops grown in 1909 were generally successful despite drought.

REPORTS OF PROFESSOR NEWSTEAD AND DR. PROUT.—Copies of the preliminary reports of Professor Newstead and Dr. Prout, who assisted the Island to enquire into the subjects of Insect Pests and Tropical Diseases, were forwarded by the Government. These were published in full in the newspapers (JOURNAL for May, 1909, page 162).

IMPORT DUTY ON GOATS, RABBITS AND EGGS FOR HATCHING.—On the the representation of the Board, the Legislative Council amended the tariff enabling pure-bred horses, cattle, sheep and pigs imported from British possessions, India and the United States of America, to be admitted free of duty, to include pure-bred goats and rabbits in this exemption from duty. (JOURNAL for May, 1909, page 161). In June, on the further representation of the Society, eggs from pure-bred fowls imported for hatching, were in future permitted free of duty on the production of satisfactory certificates from the breeders.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.—At the Half-yearly Meeting held on 20th June, 1907, on the motion of Mr. Shore, seconded by Mr. McGrath, it was resolved to ask the Government to establish a wireless telegraph station in view of the isolated condition of the Island after the earthquake, to prevent such complete isolation through any cause again. Not having been informed of any steps having been taken, the Secretary in February last, reminded the Government of this resolution.

In April the Government intimated that a bill had been introduced into the Legislative Council providing for the establishment of a wireless telegraph station by the Direct West India Cable Company.

PREMIUMS ON STOCK IMPORTED.—All the proceeds of sales of previous bulls presented by Sir Alfred Jones, not having been utilised in the previous scheme for premiums on pure-bred live stock imported (1907) and the roan Shorthorn bull having been sold in April 1909, it was resolved, from the money in hand, to offer the following premiums:—One premium of £10 on Shorthorn, Devon or Red Poll bulls imported; two premiums of £3 each for rams of milch breeds of goats; two premiums of £3

each on pure-bred boars of Poland China, Berkshire or Essex breeds of pigs ; the same rules as in the previous scheme to hold good.

HONEY INDUSTRY AND FOUL BROOD.—It having been brought before the Board that few honey-exporting countries were free of the disease called "Foul Brood" in bees, while it did not exist in Jamaica, and that a certificate to the latter effect issued with our shipments of honey, would probably add to their value for some purposes, enquiry was directed to be made by the Secretary of prominent apiarists as to this disease. The opinion was unanimous that it did not occur here, and by the authority of the Government, a printed certificate to this effect, signed by the Director of Agriculture, has been issued.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ANIMALS' LAW.—The Contagious Diseases Animals' Law, prepared on the recommendation of the Society, was passed by the Legislative Council on the 26th March, 1909, and a copy was published in the JOURNAL for June, 1909. Some small amendments have since been submitted to the Board for consideration.

ADULTERATION OF RUM.—In May the Government sent copies of correspondence between the West India Committee, the Colonial Office and H. M. Board of Customs with reference to securing more distinct marking of casks of mixed spirits shipped from or through the United Kigdom to the colonies as "Mixed Rum." The matter was reported to be under the consideration of a Royal Commission.

In July the C. S. O. advised that as a result of the correspondence between the Government and the Secretary of State for the Colonies, it had been ascertained that no trace of any official mission having been entrusted to Monsieur E. A. Pairault, whose mis-statements of Jamaica Rum were contained in his work entitled "La Rhum et sa Fabrication," no action could be taken by the Imperial Government in the matter.

SHEEP.—The Board received an offer from Mr. Isaiah A. Dell of Calabra, West Africa, to ship to Jamaica some of the West African Woolless Sheep, which Sir Alfred Jones had generously promised to carry free from Lagos to Kingston. Unfortunately it was found that owing to restrictions imposed in the United Kingdom under the Diseases of Animals Law there, sheep from West Africa could not be landed in Liverpool or any port in Great Britain for trans-shipment to Jamaica.

COCONUT DISEASE.—At the June meeting a resolution from the Sav.-la-Mar Branch was placed before the Board, directing attention to the extent and spread of a disease of coconut trees in the parish of Westmoreland, and asking if the parent Society could appoint a Commission to examine into and report on the cause or causes of such disease and to suggest remedies. The reply was that the disease had already been reported upon by Mr. Cradwick as "Bud Rot," a disease that prevailed wherever coconuts were grown. The Acting Director of Agriculture was asked to write a pamphlet containing simple and explicit information on the subject for distribution, and this has been done.

SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF ANIMALS.—This Society made request (1) to be put in touch with the various Branch Agricultural Societies so that they could reach small settlers with their pamphlets, and so that worthy persons might be recommended for medals. (2) To have a page of the JOURNAL at their disposal for publishing special articles to further the objects of their Society. Both requests were granted. (JOURNALS for July and August, 1909).

COCOA DISEASE.—A member of the Board, Mr. Simmonds, called attention at the June meeting, to the question of cocoa disease in Portland, and the allegation of the St. George's Branch at Buff Bay, that they had approached the Government for special assistance to check the disease there and that nothing had been done. Mr. Simmonds said the matter ought to have been referred by the Government to the Board but they

had no information. The Acting Governor, who was presiding, explained the position—that it had been an omission not to refer the papers on the subject to the Board. The Agricultural Instructor Mr. Cradwick, was devoting a large portion of his time to cocoa diseases in that particular district—that pamphlets on "Diseases of Cocoa" had been issued, and that the debatable question was whether the Government should pay for the field labour necessary in pruning and spraying trees on private properties, when Mr. Cradwick was called in to give demonstrations. In such cases he held that the owners of the property must pay for such labour, the Instructor only giving the demonstration.

In July JOURNAL the correspondence in this connection from the Government was published.

CARRIAGE OF ORANGES.—At the June meeting Mr. Muirhead again brought to the attention of the Board, the unsatisfactory condition of oranges landed in Bristol by the Direct Line steamers compared with the fruit carried by the Elders & Fyffes steamers to Liverpool. It was explained that Sir Alfred Jones had written to the Government stating that the carrying of oranges and bananas together on the Direct Line steamers in the space reserved for bananas, had been found disastrous and would not in future be done. (JOURNAL for February, 1909).

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.—On receipt of an intimation that the prohibition against landing animals from certain of the United States, in the United Kingdom had been withdrawn, the Board recommended the withdrawal of the prohibition as regards Jamaica and this was done. (JOURNAL for August, 1909).

EXHIBITIONS.—The colony having been asked to participate in the proposed Japanese-British Exhibition, London 1910, the Government advised that they had replied that the colony was not in a position to do so. The matter of being represented at the Toronto Annual Exhibition is under consideration.

CASSAVA INDUSTRY.—The agent for a company in the United States, who proposed to buy cassava on a large scale, dry it, ship it, and manufacture products from it in the United States, being referred by the Government to the Society, to give what assistance they could in the development of an industry, the Instructor for Manchester and St. Elizabeth was detailed to accompany the agent and show him through the best districts. Conditions were found eminently suitable, but the price offered for roots at the field,—1/- per cwt.—is not held by the majority of growers as likely to be remunerative. The enterprise, however, is still under consideration.

PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITION.—A Resolution from St. Thomas-ye-Vale Branch, asking that the Prize Holdings Competition be amended to include holdings up to 50 acres as a maximum, having been submitted, together with a resolution from St. Faiths asking that holdings though in two separate pieces be allowed to compete, provided the residence be on one part,—these matters are under consideration, and the various Branch Societies have been asked to give their opinions.

BRANCH RULES.—Two revisions were made by the Board on the rules governing Branch Societies. Page 316 JOURNAL for September, 1909.

POUND LAWS.—The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the various Parochial Boards asking whether the Pound Laws in their opinion, worked satisfactorily, and if not, to suggest revisions to improve them. The matter is still under consideration.

DIRECT LINE.—At the September meeting the matter of the new contract for the Direct Line Connection, was brought up and it was considered necessary, looking to the unsatisfactory nature of the existing contract with relation to the carriage of fruit, that the terms of any proposed new contract should be submitted to the Agricultural Society for consideration before it was adopted by the Government.

The following are the chief items of office work :—

INSTRUCTORS.—An addition of £500 to the grant enabled two new Instructors to be appointed beginning 1st July as follows :—Mr. H. Q. Levy, whole time for Trelawny and St. James at £250 per annum ; Mr. L. A. Wates, for Eastern Portland and St. Thomas, nine days per month, at £150 per annum, and to increase Mr. Hirst's time engaged as Instructor from eleven to fifteen days a month. From the special grant made by the Government in aid of South Manchester and South-east St. Elizabeth of £250, a special Instructor was appointed for these districts alone—Mr. E. J. Smith at £150 per annum.

Itineraries of work proposed to be done each month by each Instructor together with a report by him on how his work for the past month has been carried through, are circulated to the Instructors' Committee, which is composed as far as possible, of a member for each instructural district, with the Hon. Director of Agriculture as Chairman.

PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITON.—This competition is being carried through this year in St. Thomas, St. Catherine, Trelawny and Portland. The parishes suggested for next year, 1910-11, are Manchester, St. Ann St. Mary and Hanover.

SHOWS.—The following Shows have been held during the last six months :—

St. Thomas-ye-Vale, at Bog Walk	-	April	15	£10	0	0
Brown's Town, at Brown's Town	-	,,	22	10	0	0
Cambridge, St. Andrew,	-	May	5	4	10	4
Ulster Spring, Trelawny	-	June	3	5	8	8
St. Margaret's Bay, Portland	-	,,	24	10	0	0
St. George's, Buff Bay	-	August	2	10	0	0
Port Royal Mountains, Mavis Bank	-	,,	5	5	16	0.

JOURNALS.—The number of JOURNALS issued per month is 3,500, a reduction of 500 from last half year, which is owing to an overhaul of the numbers of Branch Societies. (See under Branch Societies).

STALLION.—The Stallion "Sir Gerald," is standing for service at the same place as last year, care of Mr. Arnett at Gibraltar.

BULLS.—The King's Hereford Bull is still with Mr. Kenneth Roxburgh, Annandale, St. Ann, but is available for a fresh district.

The roan Shorthorn Bull, one of those presented by Sir Alfred Jones, was sold by auction on April 7th, for £40.

With the sum at credit of bull account, premiums are again being offered for the importation of bulls, goats and pigs.

BRANCH SOCIETIES. There are 64 local Societies affiliated. The following new Branches were affiliated during the last six months :—Upper Metcalfe (St. Mary), Davyton (Manchester), Frankfield (Clarendon).

Most of the Branches hold their meetings regularly and keep in good standing. The Instructors fix their Itineraries so that so far possible they can attend a meeting of the Branches in their district once a quarter. The reports of their meetings are published in the newspapers and in the Agricultural Journal.

Some Branches, however, while not yet actually defunct are only in existence, and are not working. Journals have been stopped to Branches where the application for revised lists of members has not been attended to. These are Annotto Bay, Duan Vale, Upper St. John, Retreat.

OFFICE.—For the half year 2,541 letters were received and 4,069 dispatched. Receipts to the number of 760 were issued for sums received, and 575 receipts received for monies paid.

The supply of any agricultural wants is carried on as usual, a work that requires considerable inquiry, discretion, care and watchfulness,

which whenever not exercised to the full, causes disappointment and unpleasantness on both sides.

The full report of work will be submitted with the statement of accounts in the report for the second half of the year.

JOHN BARCLAY, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Chairman said they could now go over the various paragraphs *seriatim*.

NEW WASH FOR TICKS.—In regard to the reports of Professor Newstead and Dr. Prout, he (the Chairman) asked the Director of Agriculture what had been the outcome of the recommendations made by Professor Newstead as to the new wash for dealing with ticks.

Mr. Cousins said before Professor Newstead came out here, experiments were being made in regard to this matter, and they were led to arrive at a tick wash which he had called "Paranaph," which he was confident would prove a remedy for ticks all over the Island, and it could be applied in a very simple manner by means of a spray. It was more effective, however, used in conjunction with Cooper's Sheep Dip Powder, which contained arsenic. He had obtained the authority of the Governor to put £50 on the estimates of his department so that the wash might be made more generally available.

His Excellency asked if this new wash had been tried on any large scale and with what results ?

Mr. Cousins said it had been used at Knockalva and other properties and the report was that they had never tried anything else that had had the same effect. If properly tried, according to the reports received, it would kill every tick, and the preparation of arsenic in it seemed to act as a preventive to a futher attack of tick for at least three weeks.

Mr. Simmonds asked whether the arsenic might harm the cattle if they licked the wash off.

Mr. Cousins :—No, it would act as a mild tonic.

Mr. Douet asked what the cost per annum would be.

Mr. Cousins said it cost about a penny for an application, and if the ticks were really bad it would have to be done every three weeks, so that would be about eighteen applications—1/6 a year. Labour was so cheap on the pens that the actual cost of application would be very little.

Mr. Williams endorsed what the Director of Agriculture had said, from his experience.

Mr. Martin said he had tried what the Director of Agriculture had recommended, but he had now gone back to the wash that he was using before.

WOOLLESS SHEEP.—With regard to the West African woolless sheep, the Secretary suggested that when the next draft of soldiers of the West India Regiment were coming to Jamaica from West Africa, the Society might arrange, through the Government, for this ship, coming direct to Jamaica, to bring some of the woolless sheep here. This was approved of.

PROTECTION OF ANIMALS.—Mrs. Bourne, on behalf of the S.P.A.J., expressed thanks for the very valuable suggestions they had received from the Agricultural Instructors and which they had acted on.

THE CASSAVA INDUSTRY.—The Chairman asked if the Secretary could give them any information as to the prospects of the cassava industry and the prices that could be obtained.

The Secretary said the matter had gone so far that Mr. Moore, of the Tropical Products Company, was now in the Island and was testing his portable machine, which if the scheme was carried out, he intended to place through the Island. These tests were being carried out at the cassava factory at Longville in Clarendon. He did not think they had

got along any further than this. There was no information as to whether the company would increase the price they had offered, but he had heard incidentally that they had found other ways of utilising the cassava which might lead to a revision of the price offered.

His Excellency asked if there were any prospects that the people who had been encouraged to grow cassava would find a market for it ?

The Secretary said so far as he knew, very few people were encouraged to such an extent that they had planted on anything like a large scale. He did not know anybody, except perhaps one planter, who would not be able to dispose of his cassava more profitably in the Island.

Mr. Martin said if they had gone in for the growing of cassava they would not have been able to sell it at present because the company were only now experimenting with the machine. They did not know whether the machine would work satisfactorily or not, up to the present time.

Mr. H. Q. Levy said he was prepared to say that the machine which the company had was not likely to work satisfactorily. He had had some experience in this matter at the Bengal Factory, and he thought that the machine would not work on any large scale at all.

The Secretary said he did not think anybody here knew anything about the machine yet. They had only had a rough sketch of it, and what the machine was capable of doing no one here except Mr. Moore knew or could know.

Prize Holdings Scheme.—Mr. Hanson, the representative of the St. Faith's Branch, said that at a meeting of that Branch on Tuesday evening, the Prize Holdings Scheme was again discussed, and they passed the following resolutions :—

(1) "This meeting begs to call the attention of the parent Society, through its half-yearly meeting, to Rule 3 of the Prize Holdings Competition requiring the residence of the competitor to be on the ground entered for competition.

(2) "This meeting would point out that the greater number of holdings throughout this district are disqualified by that rule, as residences here have only a small quantity of land attached to them, and the owners possess other lands at some distance apart from these residences.

(3) "This meeting would respectfully suggest that the rule be amended so as to render such holdings eligible, provided the houses are properly kept, the premises improved and cultivated, and that the separate land is also properly cultivated.

(4) "This meeting would invite the attention of the parent Society to the case of the day school teachers who reside in houses provided for them in connection with their schools, but own and cultivate lands in the district, and who would be eligible for the Prize Holdings Competition but for the fact that the houses they reside in are church property. This meeting would suggest that all other conditions being fulfilled, such holdings be allowed to compete.

(5) "That in view of the growing number of entries now being made in connection with the Prize Holdings Competition, the Managing Committee of the parent Society approach the Government with the view to having the number of prizes in each class increased."

The Secretary said this matter had already been considered by the Board at the request of the various Branches, and it had been resolved not at present to ask for any additional money for the Prize Holdings Scheme, but to let it remain over until the next financial year, and in the meantime to have the matter thoroughly discussed.

Direct Line Contract.—His Excellency said the Government had not yet received any tenders for the Direct Line service.

No remarks being made on any other item of the report it was adopted.

TARIFF COMMISSION.—The Chairman said the first item on the agenda after the Secretary's report was tariff relations with Canada. As they all were doubtless aware, a Royal Commission was coming to Jamaica to investigate the question—by what means trade relations between Canada and Jamaica could be improved? The Board of Management of the Agricultural Society had been asked to appoint representatives to express the views of the Society on the subject before the Commission.

The Secretary said the Board had done nothing definitely in the matter so far, because the letter from the Colonial Secretary was received the day after the last meeting of the Board of Management. He had communicated with the individual members of the Board on the subject asking them to attend a joint meeting of the Council of the Merchants' Exchange, but it was not convenient for members to come up from the country, and he was consequently asked to place the matter on the agenda of the half-yearly meeting for discussion, as the question could not be discussed by letter.

His Excellency said his view was that what the Society should do at the present time was to appoint a small Committee—in his communication to the Board of Management he had suggested three representatives—to prepare a statement for the Commission. The object of the Commission was to see what could be done to improve trade relations between Canada and Jamaica. The Commission was not committed to the policy of reciprocal trade exclusively or absolutely. This Society was not required necessarily to give any evidence for or against the establishment of reciprocal trade relations, but it would be very much to the point for the Commission to know what the feelings and views of the Society were on the subject, so that it might be fully informed of all sides of the matter. He thought they should endeavour to promote trade relations rather by indirect means such as the granting of subsidies to steamships, rather than by any alternation of tariff principles. That was his own view, and he had suggested personally that the Board of Management should nominate three gentlemen whom he named—it was entirely open to the meeting to accept this nomination or not—but he had suggested that the Director of Agriculture, Mr. Robert Craig (who had already represented Jamaica on a mission to America and Canada on the subject of reciprocity) and Mr. J. Roland Williams (the Superintending Inspector of Schools) who represented this Island some little time ago at a conference at Barbados on the question of trade relations, should be appointed as representatives. This was his view of what was the most efficient way of getting a sound representation of the views of the Agricultural Society on the subject. He would therefore, formally put before the meeting the suggestion that these three gentlemen be asked to serve as a Committee and prepare such statements for the Commission as they might think advisable, and to appear before the Commission and answer questions as regards the agricultural interests of this Island, and how they were affected by trade with Canada.

Mr. Craig said there was a slight mistake in what the Governor had said about his visit to America and Canada on a mission in regard to reciprocity. About 25 years ago he was nominated to go to Canada, but he did not go. He had brought a resolution which he intended to put before the meeting so as to open a discussion on the matter. The resolution read as follows:—

"That while in common with all loyal British subjects, the members of the Jamaica Agricultural Society would welcome preferential trading throughout a United and Self-contained Empire, the Society is of opinion that preliminary to such Inter-Imperial trading, there must come the adoption of Tariff Reform by the mother country.

"That already, as between Canada and Jamaica, there is, in volume, a practical reciprocal trade, and the Society does not anticipate Canada differentiating against the sugars of Jamaica in respect that Jamaica has at her disposal a retaliatory remedy.

"That in view of the fact that the United States is our principal, and is geographically, the natural market for Jamaica-products, most of which have free entry into her ports, the Society is not in favour of a preference being given to the imports from Canada.

"That the natural extension of Canada's trade with Jamaica lies in better transport facilities than are now available."

Mr. Craig continuing, said it was the general opinion of the country, that Jamaica could not afford to enter into reciprocal trade arrangements with Canada by giving her a preference. Twenty-five years ago a Commission went to Canada from Jamaica. They had a good time, returned, but nothing further had been done. Since then a few steamers had been subsidised, but Canada had made no real attempt—she had done very little—to get hold of our trade, whilst on the other hand the Americans had done so, and they had got our trade.

Mr. Simmonds seconded the resolution of Mr. Craig.

After a little discussion, it was decided to divide the motion into four separate resolutions.

The first one was amended and passed unanimously as follows:—"That while the members of the Jamaica Agricultural Society would welcome preferential trading throughout a united and self-contained Empire, the Society is of opinion that preliminary to such inter-imperial trading, there must come the adoption of tariff reform by the mother country."

The second resolution was also unanimously agreed to as follows:—"That already as between Canada and Jamaica there is, in volume, practically reciprocal trade, and this Society does not anticipate Canada differentiating against the sugars of Jamaica."

The third resolution which read as follows was carried by a majority, one gentleman voting against it:—"That in view of the fact that the United States is our principal, and is geographically, the natural market for Jamaica products, most of which have free entry into her ports, this Society is not in favour of the preference being given to imports from Canada."

The last resolution which was adopted without dissent reads thus:—"That the natural extension of Canada's trade with Jamaica lies in better transport facilities than are now available."

His Excellency the Governor proposed that the Hon. H. H. Cousins, Mr. R. Craig and Mr. J. R. Williams, be asked to appear before the Commission and present the foregoing resolutions and be prepared to give the Commission any information, or answer any questions that might be asked of them on behalf of the Jamaica Agricultural Society.

Mr. D. Campbell seconded.

Mr. Craig asked to be excused from being a member of the Committee.

Mr. Simmonds was suggested, but he said he was dead against having anything to do with the matter.

Mr. Haggart suggested that Dr. Pringle should be asked to go along with Mr. Cousins and Mr. Williams.

His Excellency said that Dr. Pringle would probably appear before the Commission in another capacity.

Dr. Pringle suggested Mr. Haggart.

Mr. Haggart said he would very likely appear before the Commission in the capacity of Commercial Agent here for Canada.

It was decided to ask Mr. Joseph Shore to be one of the representatives of the Society along with the Director of Agriculture and Mr. Williams.

GOVERNMENT VETERINARY SURGEON.—Mr. Douet said that it was high time now that they should have a Government Veterinary Surgeon. The matter had been discussed by the Agricultural Society for the last twelve years, in fact, since its formation, and it had always been felt to be desirable and necessary that a properly qualified and experienced Veterinary Surgeon should be employed by the Government. Last year the Legislature passed the Contagious Diseases Animals Law, for the purposes of which a Veterinary Surgeon was necessary. The Government were now starting a Farm School at Hope, and they must have a Veterinary Surgeon attached to the institution. He therefore moved the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this Society, the time has arrived when the Colony should not be without a Veterinary Surgeon of high qualification and experience."

His Excellency said the Privy Council had been giving this matter consideration, and what he was disposed to recommend to the Legislative Council was to make provision on the estimates for the coming financial year, for a Government Veterinary Surgeon, to have his headquarters at the Farm School at Hope. They would have a small station there, where animals could be received and treated, and where the boys of the school might learn farriery and the treatment of diseases of stock. This Veterinary Surgeon should also be available for special engagements and special missions about the Island, and so far as his time would allow, he should have private practice. He (the Governor) was afraid that the private practice of the Veterinary Surgeon would be rather restricted to the area of Kingston and St. Andrew, because a great deal of his time would be taken up in teaching veterinary work at the Farm School. That was the way in which he was prepared to recommend the matter to the Legislative Council.

Colonel Moulton-Barrett said in the South African war there were a number of Veterinary Surgeons, but he found that only about two of them knew anything concerning cattle. He thought the Veterinary Surgeon who would be got for the Farm School should have had experience with cattle on a large scale, and he would urge this point for the consideration of the Government.

Mr. Craig asked if the new man would be a "Vet" holding a British degree.

His Excellency said the Government would endeavour to get a man who had good practical experience. They certainly would not limit him to having a British degree. If he had a good American or Canadian degree and was a really good man they should not exclude him.

Mr. Simmonds said he thought they should not insist in only getting a man with a British degree, because they remembered Professor Williams, who came to Jamaica some years ago. Professor Williams said that he knew the sheep tick, but he admitted that he did not know anything about the different Jamaica ticks. And if they had brought down a man from America on that occasion, they would have got a good man for one-third of the amount which they paid to Professor Williams.

PRAEDIAL LARCENY LAW.—On this subject, the Secretary said, that there was a great feeling in the country that the distinction between praedial larceny and common larceny as regards agricultural products should be abolished.

Mr. D. Campbell referred to a case which came before a Resident Magistrate recently, when he stated that unless a person was brought to prove that *the accused had cut the fruit from the growing tree*, he was not prepared to convict for praedial larceny on the very strongest evi-

dence of theft. The same Resident Magistrate had stated in a case where a man was charged with stealing a quantity of cured cocoa from a tray in a cocoa house, that he would only convict on the evidence that was brought before him if he was satisfied that nobody else could produce similar cocoa to that. It was evident that if this was the view that Resident Magistrates were going to take in regard to this law, then it would have to be amended. One Resident Magistrate had remarked to him (Mr. Campbell) that it was a peculiar thing that the Government never consulted the Resident Magistrates and got their opinions on the working of the Praedial Larceny Law.

His Excellency—That has not been the case. The Government have, during the past ten years, asked the Resident Magistrates by circulars and otherwise, on various occasions, for their views on the praedial larceny laws, and if any Resident Magistrate said that they had never been consulted, he said so under a lapse of memory. The Resident Magistrate was the judge of evidence, and from the evidence it might be as difficult to convince him to convict in a case, as it was to convince a jury to convict. The evidence was left to him and the only remedy was an appeal against him. As regards the point on which he had interrupted Mr. Campbell, he thought Mr. Campbell and other magistrates must be aware that several circulars in the course of his (the Governor's) connection with Jamaica, had been sent out by the Government not only to Resident Magistrates, but to the Agricultural Society and other persons as regards the working of the Praedial Larceny Law. He would say that the Government had a stack of opinions from Resident Magistrates on the point.

Mr. Lockett thought that the existing conditions told very hard on the planters and something should be done to remedy the defects that had been pointed out. He had had to mark every stem of his bananas.

Mr. Simmonds said it did seem strange that they had an Attorney General, an Assistant to the Attorney General and a Crown Solicitor, and all these years they had not been able to make a praedial larceny law which would suit the circumstances of the country. If the law officers of the Government were not able to frame such a law, then they had better ask for somebody else to do it; but it was a disgrace that they had been trying so long to make a praedial larceny law and they had not yet got a perfect one. He thought there must be several lawyers who would be able to frame a law that would be suitable.

The Archbishop said he had no knowledge of the case mentioned by Mr. Campbell, but he feared from what he had heard that there was a connection between that particular Resident Magistrate and one who had strongly represented to the Government in former years the important point that he (the Archbishop) was now referring to. It appeared to him that the particular case fell through largely because of the distinction between common larceny and praedial larceny and one of the strong points of the particular magistrate he had in his mind was that there would never be any certainty of conviction in an average case unless they could do away with the distinction of common larceny and praedial larceny.

His Excellency said this was a very interesting discussion. The last Praedial Larceny Law which was passed, enabled people to make arrests on suspicion, and if they abolished the distinction between common larceny and praedial larceny then the power of arresting on suspicion would apply to any article. Did they want to apply to all kinds of agricultural produce, cured or half cured, the power of arresting on suspicion? This would be a very wide line to take.

Mr. Goffe suggested as a remedy against praedial larceny that the license to deal in agricultural produce should be raised to about £20, when very few people would be able to take out a license, and those who did so would be responsible men.

Dr. Pringle said this point had been discussed over and over again in the Legislative Council and the feeling of the members of the Council was that nearly everybody in the Island should have a license if he wanted one, and that the fee should be as low as possible.

In reply to Mr. Craig, His Excellency said the first batch of "authorised persons" under the Praedial Larceny Law came before him last week, and he had authorised their publication. He would take care that the *Gazette* was sent to the Branch Societies so that they could see the names of the "authorised persons."

STEAM ROLLERS.—Mr. Ventresse moved: "That in the opinion of this Society more steam rollers are required on the public roads, and that the expenditure on main roads in the different parishes should be more in proportion to the direct taxation thereof."

Mr. Goffe said he agreed with that part of the resolution which referred to steam rollers, because they had had experience of them in St. Mary, and they had done good there. He would second the resolution so far as it dealt with that part. The other portion of the resolution he did not agree with.

His Excellency said they imported one steam roller last year, and had three more coming out, and that was a very fair beginning. He could assure Mr. Ventresse and others that the present Director of Public Works was a man who believed in steam rollers, and as soon as he saw that his belief was well founded on financial results, he would have as many steam rollers as the Legislative Council would vote him. So far the results were good and encouraging. As regards new roads, if the Darliston district showed the Government, as St. Mary and Portland and other places had done, that they had produce to bring out and wanted more roads, it could be assured (and Mr. Ventresse had had that assurance already) that money would be applied to roads there to enable the people to bring out their produce. The principle of the Government was to spend money on roads wherever it was seen that there was produce to be brought out. He wanted to spread their insurance over other parts of the Island where bananas and other fruit could be grown, instead of having to depend on one portion of the Island only. It was the policy of the Government to spend money on roads wherever the needs of the country demanded it, and Mr. Ventresse had already got the assurance that £2,000 would be spent on improving a road that would go right up to Mr. Ventresse's door.

The resolution was divided in two and the first part as follows: "That in the opinion of this Society, more steam rollers are required on public roads," was passed unanimously.

The second part of the resolution, which read: "That the expenditure on main roads in the different parishes should be more in proportion to the direct taxation thereof," did not find a seconder, and consequently fell through.

RAILWAY FACILITIES.—Mr. Ventresse referred to correspondence he had had with the Railway authorities in regard to Shows at Montpelier, and said that they offered no facilities to the Show Committee, and further, the deposit that the Railway required for running special trains for the Show were exhorbitant and entirely unreasonable.

Mr. Martin said his idea was that the Railway did nothing to encourage Shows. Formerly the Railway used to carry exhibits for the Shows at Cumberland Pen free of charge. Now it was difficult to get the Railway to carry exhibits in good condition. He had always had trouble with them in sending his stock to Shows.

The following resolution was carried on the motion of Mr. Ventresse: "That this Society ask the Government to give all facilities possible for

the furtherance of train services in connection with all Agricultural Shows."

THE MONGOOSE.—The Secretary stated that Mr. H. S. Hoskins of Vale Royal, had written suggesting the importation of some fresh mongoose from India as rats were again increasing and causing loss in the cane fields.

The meeting decided not to take any action in the matter.

The meeting then terminated.

HINTS TO EXHIBITORS AT SHOWS.

BY JOHN BARCLAY.

Concluded.

Sarsaparilla—should be brought twisted in a roll or coil as it would be taken to the merchants to sell, and should be clean.

Tobacco.—Leaf tobacco should be brought fastened at the stem and with the leaves loose, so that the judges can see them properly. The smell of smoke or anything but a good tobacco smell about the leaves will be against the exhibits chance of a prize. The judging goes by the aroma, the thin, glove-like texture of the leaf, and most of all the burning quality. The leaf should light readily, burn easily, and smell of good tobacco when burning. The colour of tobacco should be a light brown, in texture thin, and silky, and the ash left on burning have a good white or grey-white colour.

Meals and Starches.—In the Meals and Starches section there has been a great improvement in late years. The exhibits are now nearly always brought in clean calico bags, as they ought to be, and when show tins with glass covers are provided they should be put in these. The judging of starch goes by the whiteness, fineness, flavour and smell, so that if the exhibits are shown in open pans, they are liable to get dust and little specks of foreign matter, which is unfair to exhibitors, and makes it almost impossible to judge. The tins with the glass fronts or covers are closed to keep the exhibits free from dust. Exhibitors should not try to play tricks and mix cassava starch with arrowroot to make it look finer, or add starch to their banana meal to make it look lighter in colour, or to their cassava meal to make it look finer. Cassava Meal and Breadfruit meal are not meant to be fine like flour, but more like medium coarse oatmeal. They should be clean (even very fine specks of dirt can easily be discovered under a magnifying glass), sweet-smelling, and with a good flavour, not harsh or sour. We have known exhibits to taste and smell of salt fish, having probably been put down near that article for a night. We have known them also to smell of burnt wood and smoke, having probably been put down in the kitchen when a fire was freshly kindled. With Tapioca it does not matter whether it is fine or coarse; it is the appearance, smell and flavour that are taken into account. The best way is to make

it like the "shop" Tapioca, *i.e.*, the imported product which we have to compete against. Very few exhibitors seem to know exactly what Cassava Farine is, and they often exhibit the "Bitty" or "Quacca" as it is called, which is the refuse after making the Cassava Starch from the Cassava—but this is not Farine. The true Farine is made from the whole of the cassava, except what fine sediment may pass through the sieve with the juice. Then this cassava pulp is heated in a large pan and is kept stirred about until it becomes granulated, something like coarsely powdered biscuits, and brownish in colour.

Liquors, Oils, Vinegars.

Wines.—In the native Wines Section, neat labels should be put on all the bottles, such as Ginger Wine, Orange Wine, Pimento Dram, but of course, not the name of the exhibitor. Rum should not be shown with the name of the estate, only a number or private mark for the owner to recognise it.

There may sometimes, at large Shows, be a trades competition, when trade exhibits with the fruit's name must be exhibited.

Oils.—In the Oils and Vinegars Section, clear glass bottles or jars, one qnart size, must be used with proper stoppers. A dark bottle and a piece of trash or a piece of paper instead of a cork, should disqualify the exhibit. The corks should not be jammed so tight that the judge cannot draw them.

Castor Oil—is judged first by the clear appearance,—there should be no sediment in the bottle. Second, by the odour; often an exhibit has a burnt smell or the smell of kerosine oil; these are most common faults. It should be as nearly as possible without smell at all. The judge is not expected to taste the Castor Oil—but the points to aim at are that Castor Oil should be as nearly colourless, tasteless and odourless as possible.

Coconut Oil—should also be perfectly clear, with no sediment in the bottle. It should have a sweet, delicate, cocouut odour. Faults with this are the same as with castor oil, a burnt smell or a kerosine smell, through having used a bottle which contained kerosine, an odour hard to be got rid of; and often also there is a rancid smell.

Vinegar.—With Vinegar there should be no sediment. The judging goes by its purity, and by its sharp, vinegary smell and taste. The usual faults are want of clearness, with sediment, and often no sharpness, so that it is hardly vinegar at all, but only sour water.

Lime Juice—should have no sediment and should be very acid, with a lime-like fragrance; but it should not have the scent or taste of the essential oil of the skin in it.

Preserves.

All preserves should be shown in clear jars with screw tops: they should not be sealed as the judges must open the jars to test

consistency and flavour. The judging goes by the taste and consistency and the lightness of the appearance, also the attractiveness of the exhibit generally.

Guava Jelly—should be clear and of a rich carmine colour. The taste should not be too sweet like molasses, but should retain a little of the acidity. The consistency should not be thin like syrup, nor so thick that it sticks to the spoon like glue; but should be a happy medium and firm, just thin enough that it can be spread on bread, if necessary. Guava Dolce should be thick that it may be sliced.

Marmalade.—Great improvement has taken place in the exhibits of Orange Marmalade. At the early shows, Marmalade was made entirely from the peel, and was mostly thick, sugary, and dark, but of course, as the idea was to compete with the imported Marmalades, the best of which are really very fine in appearance and taste,—a clear thin jelly with finely shredded peel through it,—this is what to aim at. Marmalade should be of little thinner consistency than Guava Jelly, but not watery. Lightness of colour is secured by slow boiling—three or four hours—and keeping it stirred all the time.

All the other kinds of jams and jellies should be on the same lines as these.

Dried Fruit.—Dried Fruits, such as Banana Figs, should be put up in neat little boxes set off—some hold—by bright pimento leaves. These leaves have a pleasant appearance and fragrance, help to press the figs and keep them from sticking to the lid of the box. Banana figs come in competition with Smyrna figs which are preserved in boxes with leaves on top, and which then look very attractive.

Pickles.—Pickles should not be shown in bottles like oil, but should be put in proper jars. They are judged by the appearance and by the smell. This last should be very tart like vinegar, and in appearance the pickles should be bright. Mixed pickles are usually better liked than pickles of one kind, unless the Prize List calls for such.

Bread and Cake Section.

Plain Bread.—There is no use in the baker showing very ornamental loaves of bread—plain loaves are better. The loaves are judged by their cutting quality, the appearance, the smell, and the taste. The knife should cut easily through without the bread crumbling to pieces; the appearance should not be heavy or clammy; the crust should be brown and the inside firm and dry and thoroughly baked, not in the least doughy; the smell should not be sour, but pleasant; and the taste, of course, should be good and bread-like.

Buns.—With buns and cakes the judging goes on much the same lines as bread. They should in all cases be well baked,—heavy, clammy, bread or bun is not good.

Cassava Cakes.—The thin Cassava Cakes should be all of a size, even in texture, crisp and dry and pleasant of flavour.

The thick Cassava Cakes (Bammy) should not break in two through the middle, as is often the case, showing a dark, clammy, sour, interior. They should break easily, like an ordinary scone, be dry and moderately crumbly; they should not be sour, nor should the skin be tough and thick. They should have a nice whity-brown appearance, and be brought in a clean cloth and be displayed in the same.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Butter.—Butter should be shown in such a dish as will keep it free of dust, but so that it can be seen and judged easily. Show Lists sometimes call for fresh butter, and salt butter put up for not less than a stated time,—generally four weeks. In this case fresh butter should be fresh or not more than merely flavoured with salt, that is, be quite distinct from the salt butter.

Eggs.—In the Egg Classes, Prize Lists usually call for six or twelve white and six or twelve brown. These should be shown in neat boxes, set off with some white paper or cotton.

No persons' names should be put on exhibits until after the judging, as the judges must not know the owners of the exhibits; but the name of the exhibit must of course be affixed, such as Guava Jelly, Pimento Dram, Castor Oil. Whenever the judging is over, any exhibitor who wishes to sell his exhibit or make known that he makes certain products for sale, can put his name on the exhibit, thus :—

Made by JOHN JONES, (address).
For Sale,
Price—

When about to exhibit at a Show, look carefully at the Prize List, and see what quantity of each article to be exhibited is called for. If the Prize List says two quarts of cured cocoa, an exhibit of only one quart, even though it be the best in the Show, would be disqualified. At the same time, nothing is to be gained by bringing more than the two quarts asked for. Anything over the two quarts will be a worry and trouble to those arranging the exhibits.

NOTE.—As the recommendation to exhibitors to bring exhibits which may roll about like coconuts, cobs of corn, oranges, etc., in wooden trays, would necessitate exhibitors showing many of these products, having a large number of trays. Show Committees could at a slight expense, either provide large pudding pans or provide strips of wood in the form of small squares to fit the Show benches, which would hold the products mentioned safely.

A little turpentine added to all scrubbing water in a house will do much to purify the atmosphere, and emit a fresh and healthful odour.

HILL-SIDE TRENCHING FOR BANANAS.

(ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE TROJA BRANCH SOCIETY BY SAMUEL A. SCHLEIFER, BRAINERD P.O.)

I AM exceedingly pleased to be thus permitted to put before my fellow planters the outcome of my observations and experience. It is not my intention to deal with the general purposes served by trenching, such as getting rid of sour water and poisonous gases, letting in fresh air to feed the plants and to prepare their food in the soil, and preventing washing on hill-sides, but simply to deal with and recommend a system of trenching our hill-side lands, which will prove most beneficial. Popular belief among small settlers is that the hill-sides require no trenching at all. The banana plants are put in and in many cases nothing more is done beyond keeping them free of weeds. More progressive men are sometimes induced to go a step further and do some forking but no trenching. It is no wonder that the results are disappointing. The heavy showers of rain falling upon the loosened surface wash away and carry to places lower down, soil and plants alike. Some idea of the amount of water that falls on a hill-side during a shower, may be arrived at as we notice the amount that collects upon and falls from a simple house roof. Add to the water which actually falls upon the surface of the plantation, that which rushes down in many cases from lands higher up on the hill-side, and you will no longer wonder at the disappointing results.

We cannot keep more rain than we require from falling upon our lands, but bringing intelligence into play, we will be able to make plans to get rid of the excess of water and prevent it doing damage to our fields. How must this be done? Simply by a systematic and methodical arrangement of trenches suitably adapted to circumstances. And here I would give a word of warning. People who have given little thought to the subject may imagine that to trench a hill-side is an easy matter, but the truth is, trenching a level tract of country is a much easier task. It will not do simply to get the water down to the gully in the most convenient manner. I am afraid even big planters at times waste much money and do great damage to their properties by sending a man, who professes to be a trench *cutter*, to make trenches in his plantation without himself seeing to the careful lining out.

A thorough knowledge of the aims in trenching is necessary to the man who would line out trenches, and having this knowledge of general principles, he must possess that amount of common sense which will make it possible to apply these principles and yet suit himself to varying circumstances.

In dealing with the subject, I would classify our hill-sides into two orders—first, a hill-side with a more or less plain and even surface, and secondly, a hill-side which consists of a series of ridges and sloping valleys.

In both cases our aim should be to economise our soil as much as possible. We view with regret the darkened appearance of the

turbid stream that flows from the neighbourhood of our plantation, and feel sorry that so much of our valuable plant food is being carried away. Human ingenuity must be brought into operation to save this waste as much as possible, and we resort to trenching for help. In the case of the slope with an even surface, the matter is comparatively easy. By putting in trenches at about one chain apart (this distance must be determined by circumstances) with very gradual grading so as to prevent a rapid rush of water, and with a series of "catch-pits" or short trenches lying horizontally across the slope and with no outlet, the water will be carried off without making wash-outs and without allowing the mould to be removed. The rich sub-soil removed from trenches and "catch-pits" and spread over the surface of the plantation, will not only help to keep down weeds, but subjected to the influence of air, water and heat, will be most helpful in maintaining the supply of ready plant-food, while the "pits" themselves soon become stored with valuable and ready food gathered from weeds, trash, and other *debris*, which have fallen or been washed into them.

Where the second case cited, namely, a hill-side consisting of a series of sloping ridges and valleys, has to be dealt with, much more care and ingenuity are called for. In most cases the plan is simply to cut trenches starting on the ridges and sloping off into the valleys. A planter once told me he had been advised always to contrive to send all the water down into the natural gullies. This system needs wholesale condemnation. The ridges which are already comparatively dry and thirsty, are made drier and more thirsty and whatever little of available plant-food they do possess, is washed out and carried down into a valley already rich and moist. The natural valley with its great wealth of plant-food, is often considerably damaged by a heavy wash-out after showers of rain and when the water from the ridges is further brought in by this objectionable system of trenching, tremendous damage is done and the great wealth of the valley together with the scant wealth of the ridges which has been washed down, rush in the torrent to some stream ready to bear it away to regions beyond, and effects a loss of plant-food which could not be replaced without the expenditure of a considerable sum of money. The whole system must be reversed. Take the water by trenches from the natural valleys and bring it on to the dry ridges where at all possible. At first thought this may appear like proposing an impossibility, but once we set to work we soon discover that the impossibility was more imaginary than real. For some time I have been working out this system in my own cultivation and with marked success. The water no longer flowing along and digging away the valleys, large bunches of fruit are now being reaped where formerly they were always lost through the trees uprooting and five and six hand stems along the ridges are now giving way to superior yields.

Begin at the top of each valley and starting with an inverted V line out of your trenches striking points on both ridges which will give you a continuous though gradual flow of water. Then once out

on the ridge, strike horizontally across a receiving "catch-pit" at least two feet in depth and as wide as may be convenient. The length of this "pit" will vary with the breadth across the ridge.

Repeat this all the way down at convenient distances. "Catch-pits" may be put in on the slopes if the trenches are far apart. It will be found that the receiving "pits" will be filled up often and then they must be cleaned out. This will be pleasant work when we realise that the soil we are removing and spreading between our plants is the rich soil transported from the valley.

The recent flood rains taught me that the system required improvement. The "catch-pits" were filled and the continuous rains not having allowed sufficient time between to make the required clearance, the water flowed over, and thus while the valleys were saved, wash-outs appeared on the sides of the ridges. Provision must be made for such emergencies, and this I easily and successfully made by connecting "pit" to "pit" by a shallow trench, thus providing for an overflow when it occurred and yet retaining the deposited soil.

I heartily recommend this system to all planters who may be situated in the hills as I am. Just after the heavy flood rains, a planter trntbfully remarked that wherever he walked in his plantation he saw nothing but gravel and sand grinning at him. This system if properly carried out, will to a great extent, prevent the repetition of such experience.

In conclusion I may say that while the system advocated admits of general application, there may be exceptional cases where heavy clay soils would render its detailed application inadmissible, and hence I can close with no better advice than that given by the Superintending Inspector of Schools in his "Suggestions for School Gardens:" "Common Sense must be your guide throughout."

ROAD TRANSIT.

A SYSTEM of road transit that seems likely to enable us to develop our fruit, especially bananas, in districts far from the Railway and sea is the Renard road train. This system has been successful in different parts of the world, it is a comparatively new introduction and seems to be quite effective. Wherever there is a road no matter how rough, the Renard train can go; every waggon wheel falls exactly in the track of the engine, for not only is the power transmitted the whole length of the train by a flexible shaft so that each waggon becomes self-propelling thus saving the engine, but the turning movement is also communicated to each waggon simultaneously. Such a train can turn in a complete circle, can safely turn the sharpest corner, and it has been proved suitable for the steepest grades, while owing to the manner in which the propelling power is transferred to each waggon the engine does not require to be heavy like a traction engine; it merely generates the power and transmits it, each waggon thus propelling itself. This road train,

moreover, does not cut up roads and is not too heavy to pass over bridges. We are informed by the proprietor that one train has been shipped to Jamaica for trial, but we have not been informed who is getting it.

If all the claims for this train, and if the experiences quoted are correct, it ought only to be a matter of time before this system is adopted generally, when much of the great strain to which roads and bridges would be subjected to by heavy motor waggons and traction engines if these were employed, would be done away with. A motor engine of 80 horse-power, one passenger car and three trucks, each truck being loaded with five tons of iron, only totalled 34 tons weight; the weight of engine, carriage and trucks being 16 tons 18 hundredweight. With this train the greatest weight of any pair of wheels does not exceed four tons, and as the wheels are eight inches wide the weight on the road per inch is comparatively light.

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

DECEMBER was a busy month for Shows and the last week of the month especially so. A Show took place at Grand Cayman on 21st December, and the Secretary expresses herself as pleased with the result. On December 23rd, Hector's River held a Show, which from the report sent in to us by the Instructors Mr. Cradwick and Mr. Wates, was very successful as regards exhibits, and fairly so as regards attendance. The native horsekind class brought out good competition and made a very attractive feature of the Show; the cattle classes too, had good exhibits, but as there was no separate class for Indian blood, it was difficult for judges to make satisfactory awards. Sheep were exceptionally good, and few districts could show better. Goats were better than are seen at most Shows although few people would have given Portland credit for having good goats. Pigs were fair and poultry was one of the very best features with thirty competitors. In fact, all the small stock was good with the exception of rabbits, and as there are no better manure-makers than rabbits, while they are a good change from poultry on the table, people in the district might see about getting some Belgian hares from Mr. Palache, Instructor for Manchester, who has over one hundred in stock.

Vegetables and fruit were poor, but coconuts and cocoes came to the rescue to brighten up the whole of the Agricultural Products Section; the former being exceedingly good all through, and the latter so good that extra prizes had to be awarded owing to the close competition.

There was a good competition in jippi-jappa hats, of which there are a good many makers in the locality, the Agricultural Society having organised a class. Extra prizes had to be given. The ladies' classes for needle and fancy work have been described as "simply lovely."

On 27th December, a Show was held at Appleton, there was a fair attendance, not quite so large as the Show held three years before, and the lack of a band made the Show dull. All the stock classes were not so good as before, and little can be said of them. The Agricultural Product Section was a little disappointing in the number of exhibits although the shed was comfortably full, but the quality was certainly good. That part of St. Elizabeth is making some bid to be a cocoa-growing district, but exhibitors have much to learn in the curing.

On 30th December, Porus Agricultural Society held its second Show on the beautiful grounds at Arcadia Pen: these grounds cannot be beaten for situation, and the surface of the Show ring seems always in good condition. The grounds are exceptionally well-situated, enabling all the different sections of the Show to be compactly arranged. There was a very good attendance although we did look for more. The show of stock surpassed the preceding Show there, the horses being up to a high standard. Cattle were medium, pigs very good, poultry also very good,—there was good competition in both, and although there was not much competition in goats the nannies were of a superior class. There was a good show of fruit at Porus, but that was mostly confined to citrus fruit, of which the box fruit was good, but the others were not well arranged for exhibition—sent in too rough and ready a form, some apparently simply torn from the tree and sent in.

In the Staple Products class, coffee was very good but we looked for a very much larger competition than there was. One of the best classes was the class for eggs, four prizes having to be awarded. It is best to make two classes for white and coloured.

Classes for vegetables made a good appearance, some of them were excellent. Preserves made a strong exhibit and they were good quality and good competition. Porus is an excellent district for a Show, but it evidently requires a good deal of working up among the out-lying districts. The exhibitors of agricultural products were too much confined to the Porus district with the exception of the Davyton Agricultural Society, the members of which we were glad to see cleared off a good many prizes, the same lady taking first prize in arrowroot starch and first in cassava starch against strong competition. There are a great many sins of omission and commission at Shows yet, but that is natural as those who run them have not had long experience. The "Hints to Show Committees" published in November JOURNAL will now enable them to follow a regular routine so that nothing may be omitted. The "Hints to Exhibitors at Shows" being published in this JOURNAL should also help exhibitors largely.

On the 1st January, Darliston Branch held its first Show, and we hear from the Secretary of another Branch, who has also been Secretary of two Shows and who was a judge there, and so has had a good deal of experience at Shows, that he was surprised at its excellence. Exhibits of agricultural products were simply perfection, some of the classes having as many as thirty exhibits; some yams

weighed over one hundred pounds, and cocoa in pods were a delight to look at. One correspondent writes: "This is a comparatively new product for the district and the people do not know how to cure it, so that an article on this subject in the JOURNAL will be very much appreciated. (We will take care that they have plenty of reading matter on the subject.—ED.). Cocoa is being shipped from the district now, I think, for the first time, in quantity." Our correspondent thinks this product will yet be a big one in Darliston Mountains, but that the industry wants pushing. If the Darliston people get their road so repaired that they can get their bananas to Montpelier, they will no doubt plant more bananas and it should follow that they will plant more cocoa as the two depend upon each other, so that the effects of a good road are far-reaching. We think we could guarantee that where bananas are concerned it is always worth while putting in a road if there is not one, or making a road good if it is not good for traffic, as bananas are so quick-growing that the results show quickly, and coffee and cocoa almost certainly follow, if there is an Instructor visiting the district.

We are glad these Shows have done so well,—although personally, we do not like Christmas week for Shows—we do not think it is the best time for products nor for getting a big crowd. The experience in Malvern is that a holiday is not the best time as they certainly got a much better crowd and had much better exhibits holding the Show a fortnight after the original date, the 9th November. They proved the fallacy there also that a postponed Show cannot be a success.

[We regret this was crushed out of the January and February issues.—ED.]

BANANA DISEASE IN COSTA RICA.

WITH reference to the article in the JOURNAL for December on the diseases of banana in Costa Rica, a correspondent says that much damage is caused by grubs which attack the banana suckers at the bulb and eat their way right through the heart to the top. As soon as they get into the "cabbage" the sucker begins to show the effect by the leaves getting yellow and the plant ultimately dies. This grub attacks the suckers at all stages, but the greatest damage is done when they are young. These grubs are responsible for a large proportion of the deaths of bananas by the so-called banana disease. The little mole-like animals called taltusas are only responsible for about 8 per cent. of the losses; lack of drainage, and the soil being too long under bananas and heavily shaded, is probably responsible for the largest proportion of the deaths of banana plants. These circumstances may have favoured the development of bacterial or fungoid diseases. So serious have these various troubles become on large plantations in Costa Rica where they never required to cultivate before, that the United Fruit Company has become alive to the necessity of taking measures to renew their plantations. Large

tracts of bananas will be cut down and the soil cultivated and re-planted. Overseers from Jamaica as well as labourers are being engaged for this purpose. Quite a number of good men have gone down to Costa Rica on good terms.

BRANCH SOCIETIES.

WE call readers' attention to the "Branch Notes" contained in this and recent issues and to the many subjects discussed by members of Branches at their meetings. Any reasonable thinking individual must admit that when small settlers can co-operate so far as to band themselves into trade organizations, not for the object of discussing politics as politics, but for the express, specific, and eminently useful and practical purpose of advancing themselves in their trade, their profession, their walk in life, by reading papers among themselves on agriculture, by listening to addresses from practical men on some particular branch of agriculture, going into their fields and seeing field operations new to them done by the Instructor, by engaging in debates on subjects of intense yet thoroughly practical interest, in planning, estimating and arranging and carrying through local Shows, in putting forward well-considered requests to the proper authorities for better roads, or new roads for their districts, in the establishment of their own Penny Banks to encourage thrift and saving—all in an orderly, constitutional and reasonable way—there has been an advance, a steady, thoughtful advance along right lines,—not a great flare up, and then extinction in the face of the first opposition and difficulties. Difficulties are made to be tackled.

Some Branches, we regret to note, only meet once a quarter; and some have gone out of existence—little or nothing to talk about or work for, they say. Yet look at the Pedro Branch in St. Ann, which meets once a fortnight; they have songs and other music and papers and debates—they are especially strong in debates. The last two were on thoroughly up-to-date subjects: "Should our people Emigrate?" and "Are the Manners of our people Improving?" We must say we read these and follow these subjects with deep interest.

We commend Branch Societies who send in reports for the interest they have sustained,—some like Christiana, Darliston and Trinity Ville since the Agricultural Society began,—and we hope they will go on steadily, never minding harsh or unfavourable criticisms but listening to all good-natured, well-meant criticism and benefiting from any points that can be useful to them.

OTHER LANDS

FLOODS of sea water broke over a part of the city of Boston, U.S.A., rendering houses uninhabitable for a short time and caus-

ing great loss quoted at a million pounds sterling. Comparatively little was said of it.

* * *

THE great city of Paris, which has a wonderful system of underground sewers so large that carts could go through some of them, and bands of men could hide in most of them, has been flooded by the overflowing of the river Seine, which has poured down a volume of water such as was never heard of before and never dreamed of as possible to happen. Torrents of water poured through the streets, flooding everything that could fill underground, and houses, and places of business, causing tremendous loss of property and lives, and interruption of business, and incalculable misery to many thousand human beings.

* * *

THE FRUIT-GROWING INDUSTRY IN GREAT BRITAIN.—Fruit-growers, in reviewing the past year, have less cause for congratulation than the ordinary agriculturist, as there can be little doubt that it was one of the most disastrous in their experience. What with lack of sunshine, a remarkable incursion of insect pests, and unremunerative prices, it is easy to see how badly they must have fared. The effect of the weather was specially disastrous on the soft fruit crops. Strawberry-growers were the worst sufferers of all, and in sheer desperation, some of them either ploughed their crops in, or gave them away. Cherry-growers also experienced heavy losses. Pears and plums were, generally speaking, the most remunerative fruit crops of the year, the apple crop being, in many parts, more or less of a failure. It is rather strange that, notwithstanding the depressing conditions under which fruit-growing has recently been carried on in the United Kingdom, the acreage has increased.—*Farm Life.*

* * *

THERE is doubtless much ignorance concerning the scientific management of their lands prevalent among the farmers in many parts of the country, (U.S.A.). Nor is this remarkable. Where have they been able in the past to obtain any real education along the lines of their business? How many of them have the ordinary agricultural colleges of the country reached in the past? Ninety-two per cent. of all of the children of this country that go to school never get beyond the primary grades. Substantially one-half of all of the school children of the country are in the schools of the country villages and the cross-roads. It is estimated that 94 per cent. of these children never go to school beyond the primary grades. They are the sons and daughters of small farmers, of tenants, and of farm labourers. Many or most of them look forward necessarily to a life in the country and to work on the farm; and yet, from the time they are taught their A B C's until after five or six years of schooling they quit the primary schools and go to work, not one of them, either boy or girl, has received a particle of education designed to fit him or her for life in the country. Nothing has been taught the girls instructing them in the matter of housekeeping and

farm life. No one has taught them how to make the home and dooryard and their life in the country more attractive. Not a thing taught the boys about the nature of soils or improved methods of cultivation. In other words, they leave school as ignorant as when they enter, so far as what they have learned there is concerned, of all that pertains to the life upon which they are about to enter and which they are to pursue.

We have expended this fiscal year on account of preparation for war 41 per cent. of all our revenues, and on account of wars past 31 per cent. of all our revenues, or a total expenditure of 72 per cent. of all the revenues thus far collected during the current fiscal year on account of wars it is said we are preparing to avoid and wars which we have had in the past.

Last year Congress appropriated to the army and to the navy and to military pensions, a total of \$385,000,000, or $67\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of our total revenue, and we appropriated to our great Department of Agriculture \$13,000,000, or about two per cent. of our revenues! I am not criticising the wisdom of any item of these appropriations, certainly not that of pensions to our soldiers and sailors, but I do submit that the daily bread and meat of the men and women who toil, of the very soldiers and soldiers' widows and children, dependent upon their little pensions, are at least as important as coast defences and battleships.—*N. Y. Tribune Farmer.*

* * *

In spite of generally abundant crops, the prices of corn, wheat and other cereals remain exceedingly high. The explanation is that our food supply raised upon our farms has uot kept pace relatively with our increase in population. What is true of grains and fruits is especially true of the great meat staples. The production of cattle, hogs and sheep is in no ways keeping
our population.—*U.S.A. Report.*

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STOCK NOTES

Lip and Leg Disease in Sheep.—The disease so named has been known in the State of Utah, U.S.A., for two years, but only last summer did it take a violent form and spread over a wide area. It has occurred entirely in the States of Wyoming and Utah ; in the former State many sheep men have lost so many head that they have been driven out of business, while large flocks, in spite of efforts to stop the disease, have lost thousands of head in a few days, once the evil got a foothold. One of the most important items mentioned in connection with the lip and leg disease is that flies can, and do, carry it from one sheep to another, and if the virus should reach an open wound, no matter how small, on a human being, it would inoculate a man.

Unless drastic methods are at once adopted for its eradication, it is estimated that it will cost Utah one million of dollars or it will

practically wipe out the sheep industry in Utah and the adjoining States. The result is that these States will be indefinitely quarantined by other States. As the State has no money available to fight the disease, a tax of £2 has been put on each sheep run to raise a fund to fight the disease. The disease is caused by a germ which causes parts of the sheep's body to die and rot even though the rest of the sheep is alive. The nose becomes covered with watery pimples and the glands in the jaw swell and burst, while the feet also are attacked and rot away.

* * *

PIGS.—Have you ever heard of the following curious notion? I wanted to have a young boar pig cut, but my penner would not allow it, because the boar had served a sow, and if the animal was castrated now the sow will shrink!

Another: the owner of the district stud boar pig is anxiously inquiring if my sow has weaned the young pigs got by the boar, as he wants to castrate the animal, but will not do it till the pigs are weaned as otherwise it will injure them!—J. HIRST, Agricultural Instructor.

[Yes, these are common ideas.—ED.]

* * *

MILK VS. PEDIGREE.—In these days of innumerable milking trials and attempts to increase the yield of milk by breeding, we are frequently met with the information from one or another that the best milkers as a herd, and frequently the winners in competitions, are non-pedigree animals. Pursuing the question further down, we are informed that though the animals are not pedigree stock they are purely bred.

Where is the difference? Simply in the fact that the one lot have not been registered, whilst the pedigree ones have all been entered. A great point arises here. The owner of a first-class herd of milking cows, when asked if they are pedigree cows, replies: "No; but I have always used pedigree bulls for generations, in fact, for in some instances, we hear, as much as forty or fifty years."

When this has been the case, and the heifer calves are retained to keep the herd up at its numerical requirements, naturally these cattle are pedigree ones, or, in other words, as purely bred as they can be. Then we turn to the so-called pedigree ones, and we find in many instances these are of such short pedigree as only just to have become eligible for the herd book, therefore though pedigreed are not nearly as purely bred as the non-pedigree stock so-called.

Unless an importer here produces a certificate of registration in a Herd Book, the Customs here refuse to admit the bull or cow duty free. They are wrong, however,—the law says pure-bred cattle for breeding purposes, and it is sufficient that a breeder's certificate of the purity of his herd is produced.

Peace hath higher tests of manhood than battle ever knew.—Whittier.

POULTRY NOTES.

Geese.—Not many geese are kept in Jamaica, turkeys as large table birds being much greater favourites. Turkeys are grazers like cattle and it is necessary for them to have green short grass most of the year round or they will not thrive. In England geese-breeding used to be a great industry. England is a green country, generally with plenty of moisture, and formerly there were large extents of common, *i.e.*, open grass land not cultivated, and there was also extensive fen land in the east of England. In Yorkshire alone, flocks of from 4,000 to 5,000 were reared every season at one time, and were driven to market in slow stages like cattle. But the huge flocks of thirty or more years ago are not to be found now. There are several causes for this: (1) the great commons have been enclosed and cultivated; (2) the fens have been drained and also cultivated and (3) public taste has changed to a preference for the turkey. Here, however, in the country, where we depend so much on poultry for meat food, a few geese kept would make a pleasant change from the very common turkey. The kind of geese kept here seems to be a mixture of the Toulouse and Embden varieties; the former is brownish grey, the latter white. We do not think the geese here lay more eggs than five or six at a time, and the average weight is not more than 15 lbs. A good specimen of the Toulouse weighs from twenty to twenty-five pounds, and at fat-stock shows in England years ago, have been shown up to sixty-three pounds for a pair.

English geese lay very well, up to forty or fifty eggs in a year, but generally about twenty-five to thirty. The trouble in Jamaica is that very little fresh blood is introduced. People will sell a pair to another party, and that party will also sell a pair and so on till they are so closely related, so in-bred, that the geese lay only from three to five eggs, when they certainly ought to lay twelve to twenty. Whenever the goose lays, the eggs should be removed and put under hens, and she may go on laying. An ordinary hen will not cover more than four or five goose eggs, but a goose herself will sit on ten or eleven.

Twenty-eight to thirty days is the usual time required for the eggs to hatch. Young goslings do not require any food for at least twenty-four hours,—as with chickens, coarse-oatmeal is the best food to start them off with, and then corn-meal or middlings made into a thick, crumbly paste can be used—not sloppy; but in a week the young goslings take to eating the soft succulent grass, if it is available, and when they do this, they are able to feed themselves with the addition of a little cracked corn. Geese are not full-grown till they are two years old, but they will breed younger than that if allowed to mate. They are best kept to eighteen months at least before pairing. They are long-lived birds and will breed up to fourteen or fifteen years old. They are subject to few diseases, and if the young goslings are kept from the hot sun for the first month, and have plenty of cool water to drink, there will be no difficulty in

raising them,—of course, they are subject to the usual poultry enemies, rats, cats, mongoose and hawks.

Not many geese are kept throughout the Island, but, as we have remarked, a good many more could be kept with advantage, more especially in those districts of the Island where turkeys do not thrive easily. What has been wrong with the geese in the Island is the lack of fresh blood,—everybody who has them has sold or presented a pair to some other body, these again have also done the same, so the in-breeding has been very severe and the size and vitality of the geese are consequently very much reduced. We have, therefore, imported two pairs for Mr. G. C. Gunter, Mandeville, who is interested in these birds,—a pair of Embden (white variety) and a pair of Toulouse (grey variety). These pairs are of very fine quality, and are large and commanding birds. The fact of having two pairs of different breeds insures Mr. Gunter being able to sell unrelated birds, and it will not matter if people mix breeds. We hope these geese will lay well and that plenty of young goslings will be hatched in due time to be dispersed through the Island for fresh blood.

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SEASONABLE HINTS.—From January to April is the great hatching season of the year. People make a great mistake in waiting till the season is right on them before getting fresh blood, consequently every year at this time there is a rush for young cockerels which cannot be had to satisfy the demand, yet in the autumn, in October, or September, a good many people have young cocks which they have no use for and have to eat them, which would do very well for fresh blood. They cannot afford to keep a crowd of young cocks running about their yards the whole winter. There is not a poultry yard in the Island that should not have fresh blood every year in the shape of a young cock ; no one should keep one of his own raising, who is keeping his own pullets as people usually do, yet this is commonly neglected and poor results we attribute largely to close inbreeding. It is not economical at all to keep young cockerels from your own yard to save a few shillings for a fresh one. If the cockerels are of any quality at all they can often be sold for more than table price,—at the worst they can be put up to fatten and make a breakfast or dinner for the family. There is no doubt that for ordinary country use the general utility bird is better than the pure laying breeds, or the large, heavy breeds, and after twelve years' experience in both town and country we can find no better combinations than we have often recommended,—that is, the cross of a light breed and a heavy breed year about. Everybody who has tried this cross is perfectly satisfied, and we can name a good many who have had first-class results. To use pure Leghorns or Leghorn cocks year after year may mean plenty of eggs but nothing worth eating on table, but use a big breed like a Plymouth Rock or an Orpington, every other year (unless you really wish to breed pure breeds) is best. We find our own Black Orpingtons get bigger and bigger every year, but when they get beyond a certain size they

have not good hatching results; therefore, as we have often advised, an Indian Game, Leghorn or Minorca used year about, or a Plymouth Rock and a Minorca year about, or a Minorca and Orpington or Leghorn-Orpington year about is a good plan.

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HATCHING.—Nests are very badly made as usual with not enough straw and in boxes so small that the fowls have no room to work round about. It is necessary for fowls to work round so that the eggs may all get equal treatment. If not enough straw or grass is used the eggs roll about. We have seen fowls sitting on bare boards when the hen has had to keep herself employed trying to keep the eggs below her. Fowl lice are a great scourge as when they once get in it is a great trouble to get them out; always put cedar leaves, bitter wood, tobacco stems, or insect powder in the nests and the hens should be looked at carefully every other day. Once lice get in, even a heavy dose of insect powder will not kill them, and the only way is to shift the hen, pour boiling water over the place or burn the old nest. Mistakes are made through taking the chickens off the nests too early and trying to feed them. If they remain for twenty-four hours after they are hatched till they run about of their own accord it will do them good. Nature provides nourishment for the first thirty-six hours at least. The best first feed we can find is coarse Scotch oatmeal, sold at 3d. a pound in the town. But if this is not available, brown rice (*not white table rice*) is a good second.

When little chickens look sickly and huddled up, suspect indigestion and a little dose of worms given them for food nearly always sets them right.

Eggs are often infertile from a great many causes, but one of the chief is the indisposition of the cock; it must be noted that he is kept in good health and condition. Then again, often too many hens are kept for one male bird; again, male birds have often their favourites and they neglect others. All these things have to be noted and corrected.

At this time of the year all the fowls should get a dose of Epsom Salts once a week,—a handful to a quart of water.

SEASONABLE HINTS.

THE weather has been very dry in February, and in some parts all along since the great rain of early November. The west end of the Island has been particularly dry and breezy. The north side has mostly been fortunate in getting rains right through January, and good showers in February,—while the south side has not come off badly in having some unexpected good showers in February—the driest month of the year. Writing in early March, it is still dry but rain is in the clouds and we expect a break in the middle of March as usually happens. The dry weather favoured the curing of coffee,

and ginger, which on the whole have turned out fine crops of good quality. Sugar too has been favoured.

The greatest planting season of the year is in March—for every thing. Corn is very scarce and so, dear, selling at 5/- and 6/- per bushel in some parts. Good seed is scarce and so we would remind those who like to be careful, that we have selected seed corn which we will send *post free* in small quantities for the convenience of members, at 3d. per quart. We have sent out all our red (kidney) Beans and Cow Peas but have Blackeye Peas *post free* 6d. per quart. It is important to select good seed as this means most in the results. Those who have not planted bananas must hurry up, if they think to catch the spring prices next year. Large suckers, good holes and better tillage, with a green crop grown through to keep the earth cool and shaded, will, however, bring young bananas along quickly. Small settlers in many parts need a great deal of careful instruction in how to plant and how to care their bananas so as to catch the season of good prices.

All who keep cows, should at this season particularly, tick them carefully, and use some of the washes advertised in this JOURNAL. Goats should be examined for lice and washed if any are found on them. So soon as goats are seen scratching and licking themselves every other moment, lice will be found on them. Pararaph, to be got from this office, is good to destroy all such pests, and certainly will settle fleas on dogs, if properly applied. No relaxation of effort should be made in our rat campaign. We still find our bamboo pot system safest and best for field use. Mash up ripe bananas with a spoon—not the fingers—and mix any good rat poison through it, also with the spoon; lift the poisoned bait with the spoon and drop into the pots, which place through the fields or even in the branches of cocoa trees. Do not touch the bait with the fingers.

PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITION.

THE judgings has now been carried through in St. Thomas, St. Catherine and Trelawny The judgings for Portland will be finished in the middle of March. We hope to publish a full list of awards and the reports in a special pamphlet, a copy of which will be sent to each competitor.

The parishes for 1910-11 will be St. Ann, St. Mary, Manchester and Hanover.

COMMENTS.

POSTAGE.—Correspondents please note that postage to this office is *not* free; only our outgoing postage is free.

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SEEDS.—The demand for Cow Peas for green dressings has been unprecedented, and as owing to the storm in November, all peas and

beans are scarce, all we had in stock could have sold for food purposes. We fortunately laid in a large stock,—yet not enough to satisfy half the orders. We had to fall back on Jerusalem Peas and Bengal Beans, which though of the greatest value for green dressings, are not under control so much for growing among bananas as Cow Peas; they are apt to run too much. Everybody who plants bananas should cover the ground between with a green crop and we recommend Bengal Beans, one row up the centre and one cross row, planting three or four beans every three feet. Within two months, the ground between will be covered in a dense mass of vegetation, and weeds smothered, the only drawback being that the very rampant growth of the vines may cover the bananas. It is not expensive, however to plough or cut the growing ends of the vines.

Seed corn has been late in coming to hand; but the storm of November spoiled the early corn so that none of it was fit for seed. We have now a stock of good seed corn in hand.

So scarce are red (kidney) beans that seed has sold at 1/- the quart, and at Montpelier Show exhibits were cleared off at 1/3 a quart, and seed corn at 1/- a quart.

We have also now native Guinea Corn, red and white in stock.

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SUNFLOWERS.—No flowers that grace the garden are so stately, so handsome, so showy or so useful as sunflowers, yet how few are grown. Growing Sunflowers are said to have anti-malarial properties (but this we cannot vouch for); bees find nectar in their blossoms, the seeds are useful to keep to feed to fowls in wet weather, while the old plants can be fed to mules or cows, so that altogether sunflowers are worth growing in some quantity in the garden. We can supply packets at 3d.

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BROOM CORN.—In the JOURNAL for November last we pointed out that this plant (much like Guinea Corn in its growth) was being largely grown in parts of the Southern United States, to make brooms. We have another supply of seed for trial at 3d. a packet.

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PRAEDIAL LARCENY.—We are glad that most of our Branches in good standing, have nominated their men under the provisions of the Revised Praedial Larceny Law. The new provisions, as we mentioned in the JOURNAL for October last, placed a great responsibility on Branch Societies, but this was in response to the strong appeals made by local Agricultural Societies for some decisive advance to be made on the old law. The law as it stands is an honest attempt to meet some of the greatest difficulties met with by agriculturists, by placing the responsibility for detection and the arrest of thieves on the people themselves. The Government asked the Agricultural Society and its Branches to appoint responsible men as special constables in relation to praedial larceny, and it is the bounden duty of all of us to help to give the new provisions of the law a fair trial.

Every reader should make himself familiar with the law which was published in the JOURNAL for October, 1909.

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RUBBER.—Larger dividends than ever are being paid by Rubber Companies in Ceylon and the Malay States, practically all the rubber being derived from Hevea or Para trees.

The Rajah Rubber Company, Limited, for instance, paid 6 per cent. in 1905, 30 per cent. in 1906, 30 per cent. in 1907, 55 per cent. in 1908. The Linggi Plantations, Limited, paid 4 per cent. in 1905, 15 per cent. in 1906, 20 per cent. in 1907, 60 per cent. in 1908.

The Vallambrosa Rubber Company, Limited, paid 53 per cent. in 1905, 53 per cent. in 1907, 80 per cent. in 1908. For 1909, with the price of rubber soaring beyond all estimates, calculations and dreams, dividends are still larger, even 100 per cent. being paid.

Results are not quite so satisfactory in Mexico, where large rubber companies are operating, and where Castilloa rubber is grown, but where the trees are old enough, the companies were honestly floated, and lands chosen well, there is satisfactory promise of substantial dividends. Most of the plantations are yet young, but where old trees from private plantings made before the companies came along, are available, perfectly satisfactory tappings are obtained. On La Zacualpa plantation, as much as 2lbs. 11ozs. of rubber have been taken from a single tree at one tapping of the older trees, the average yield of one tapping being one pound. Young trees of four to eight years only average 2·8ozs., but that is most promising.

BRANCH NOTES.

Frankfield (Clarendon).—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch took place at its rendezvous on the 14th February, 1910. There were present J. Hirst, Esq., Agricultural Instructor, who was nominated to the chair—the Society's President and Vice-presidents being absent—fifteen members including Miss Leanora Peck, and Miss Mary Ellis, a visitor. After the minutes of the last meeting were read, Mr. J. S. Edwards moved and Mr. J. E. Dyke seconded the confirmation. The agenda was a long one and the first item dealt with was correspondence. At the request of the Chairman each letter was read and considered in turn. The Secretary was directed to inform the pioneer, W. Cradwick, Esq., of the Buff Bay Show, that in consequence of our geographical situation and lack of suitable travelling facility, this Society regrets very much that it does not see its way to co-operate by way of sending exhibits for competition in the forthcoming Show at Buff Bay. The idea is a capital one and deserves commendation. In the matter of the Loan Bank venture, the Chairman suggested that as it entails much careful thought and understanding, it should be left over for next meeting, when a Committee consisting of Messrs. Dyke, Beckford, Edwards, J. T. Spencer and R. S. Grant, would meet and post itself in the rules and regulations upon which to establish it. This was agreed to. After much discussion *re* the modification of the Prize Holdings Competition, the Secretary was directed to write the Secretary of the parent Society informing him that by a resolution this Society advocates, "another class from twenty to fifty acres." The Praedial Larceny Bill came up for its share of discussion. The Chair-

man, in a brief but pointed address, showed the Society the honour placed upon it by the Government, and how it should not be slighted or depreciated. Mr. R. S. Grant said "Discretion is the better part of valour," and pointed out that the men who are to be recommended "to tree the game" should exercise their duties independent of personal feelings, and exhibit discretion, but not to the detriment of the sufferers. It was agreed that at the next meeting, authorised persons be recommended to serve in nine of the outlying districts, which much need protection against praedial thieves. A letter was read from the Colonial Secretary *re* Railway extension and asking for statistics to support a resolution which this Society had previously sent to His Excellency the Governor. By a conservative estimate this Society calculated 3,700 acres at present under banana cultivation within its area, and this by Railway facilities can be easily increased to three or four times. The Chairman pointed out that motor traction cannot compete with the Railway in the transportation of such products as bananas, which need careful carrying. The bananas are subject to injury in these motors, which have to pass over our rough, macadamised roads. The train runs over smooth iron rails. If the last editorial of the *Telegraph and Guardian* in favour of the Railway, had but mentioned this among its views it would have meant a vast deal more. This meeting adjourned after the singing of the National Anthem and will again meet on Friday, March 25th.

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Lamb's River (Westmoreland).—The annual general meeting of this Branch was held in the Mount Hermon Schoolroom on Friday, 14th January. The Rev. T. B. Prentice presided. There were fifty persons present, consisting of members and visitors. The minutes of the previous regular and special meetings held in October last, were read and confirmed. There was a discussion on the Praedial Larceny Law, and the following were elected as fit and proper persons to act under this law:—Messrs. Jas. Gallimore, for the Mount Hermon district; G. Warburton, for Belvedere; C. Wedemire, for Seaford, and E. H. James, for Hopewell. A letter from the General Secretary was read dealing with the Prize Holdings Competition, after which followed a long discussion. Some were of opinion that the scheme should remain as heretofore, while others suggested that another class be added that would include holdings from twenty-one to fifty acres. The Secretary was advised to write to the General Secretary and get the necessary information *re* the Prize Holdings Scheme, and the matter will be brought up again at the next meeting of the Society. Of the exhibits sent from this Branch Society to the Enfield Show, held on the 1st January, Mr. C. Wedemire was awarded first prize for cured ginger. The same Committee that was appointed to look after the exhibits sent to the Enfield Show, was also re-elected to look after and make the necessary arrangements for the Montpelier Show, to be held on the 3rd March. The Society promised to send a collective exhibit. The President went carefully through the Prize List, and several persons promised to send exhibits. The Secretary read a letter from the Director of Agriculture *re* the establishment of a Government Farm School near Hope Gardens. The same was discussed and it was considered a very good move, and one worthy of support. The President made reference to the late Mr. T. B. Lawrence, Treasurer of this Branch during its twelve and a half years' existence, and moved that it be recorded in the minutes that we deplore the loss to the Society with deep feelings of regret, and further: that a letter of condolence be sent from this Society to his family expressive of its sympathy with them. Carried unanimously. Through this Branch the people in and around this district, have been able to dispose of their arrowroot to the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and with the inducement, forty-six new members have been added to the Society. The President made reference to the rearing of goats in the neighbourhood, and it was decided that at the next meeting of the Society, some definite arrangement will be made in that direction.

The names of fifty-six persons were proposed for election as new members of the Society. All were duly elected. The following were elected officers for the current year: Rev. T. B. Prentice, President; Messrs. G. R. C. Heale and C. W. Whittingham, Vice-presidents; T. A. Malcome, Treasurer; and U. L. Brown, Secretary. Meeting adjourned till 8th April.—U. L. Brown, Secretary.

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Claremont (St. Ann).—The usual quarterly meeting of the Council of this Branch was held on Wednesday. 12th January, 1910. at the Church Hall, Claremont. There were present: the President. J. E. L. Cox, Esq., in the chair; Hon. H. E. Cox, Rev. H. Sharpe, Colonel Moulton-Barrett, Messrs. St. Leger Tivy, John Flynn and the Secretary, Dr. Ffrench-Mullen. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The subject of nominating persons to be appointed to act in accordance with section 2 of Law 4 of 1909, was again brought up and the names of fourteen persons were handed in. A letter was read from the General Secretary asking the opinion of this Branch on the advisability of adding another class to the holdings in the Prize Holdings Competition. After due discussion, a resolution was passed to be sent to the General Secretary in reply. The date for the holding of a Show was fixed for Monday, August 1st, at Thickets, St. Ann, by kind permission of C. L. Walker, Esq. There being no other business, the meeting then adjourned.—Dr. Ffrench-Mullen, Secretary.

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(Pedro, St. Ann).—The regular fortnightly meeting of the Pedro Branch Agricultural and Improvement Society was held in the Waltham Baptist Church, on Thursday night 6th January, 1910. There were present: the President, sixteen members and some visitors. The meeting was opened by a song entitled "A Happy New Year," after which prayer was offered by the Chairman. "A happy and prosperous new year" was wished everyone by the President. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter from Mr. T. A. G. Small resigning his position as Assistant and Reporting Secretary, was read. With regret the resignation was accepted. Mr. Small was thanked for his past labours and the Society wished him success in his new sphere of labour. Another letter from the Lucky Hill Society was read asking this Society to join with them in having a Show. After some discussion the Secretary was instructed to reply that as there will be a Show at Thickets this year, this Society does not see its way to co-operate with the Lucky Hill Branch. At this stage Miss T. J. Fletcher was elected Assistant and Reporting Secretary. She willingly accepted the post. The debate next come on: "Are the Manners of our People Improving?" Mr. H. H. Nembhard, for the negative, was present, but Miss J. Beckford, who should have spoken in the affirmative, was absent through illness. Her place was filled by Mr. E. Beckford, who opened the debate. He did his best to prove that the manners of our people are improving. He said slavish habits are done away with and politeness and bravery have filled their places. Mr. Nembhard supported his side brilliantly—Manners are not improving. He said, fathers, mothers, boys and girls, all need to be improved Children are disobedient at home, school and abroad. Husbands and wives are not what they should be at home. Older people are not respected by the younger, and superiors by their inferiors. Mr. Nembhard's side was much strengthened by other speakers, namely, Messrs. J. Simpson, W. J. Francis and Joseph Walton. The President summed up and Mr. Nembhard won fifteen to one. At this stage we passed on to our music lesson in Stimpson's Music Book. The President took up our lesson. Arrangements were made for next meeting, time January 20th. Reading—portions of November's Journal and discussion; recitation—Miss C. Gohagen was asked to do same; music—another chapter of Stimpson's. After speaking over minor matters the meeting adjourned after

the singing of the National Anthem and the Benediction.—THEODORA FLETCHER, Assistant and Reporting Secretary.

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Aeolus Valley (St. Thomas).—A meeting of this Branch was held at Yallahs in the Church Schoolroom, on Saturday, 15th January, 1910. There were present: Rev. A. Cole, Chairman, the Secretary and twelve other members. Two new members were elected,—William Lindsay and William Lightbourne. Meeting began with prayer as usual. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. Correspondence from the General Secretary was read relative to an additional class in the holdings competition. The Chairman said, in view of the proposed new class namely 20 to 50 acres, it is for you to say whether the twenty to fifty acres be added to the list or not. After a little discussion it was resolved on motion of Mr. P. Clarke, seconded by the Secretary: "That the class ten to twenty acres do remain as at present; increasing the value of prizes by additional numbers is unnecessary." The Secretary pleaded the necessity of an assistant as the work laid on him is onerous. The Chairman moved, seconded by C. Barrett, that 500 tickets in the form of a card, be printed and used for special notices to members, and that the Secretary write the General Secretary to send the JOURNALS in future to him (the President) at his office Hopeton, Yallahs, where the members will receive them. *Re* Praedial Larceny Law, two members were appointed to be authorised for Aeolus Valley—namely, Robert Grant and Moses Brown; also that the rules of the Society be revised and some of them be amended. As at the opening of the meeting there were not sufficient members to form a quorum, the roll-call and election of officers was postponed until a part of the business was gone through. Mr. P. D. Clarke moved that the officers of this Branch be re-elected to serve for the current year. This was seconded by J. G. Barrant and carried. Mr. Barrant moved that Mr. Clarke be elected second Vice-chairman and Mr. A. Bogle, Assistant Secretary; seconded by Chairman and carried. The Chairman moved, seconded by Mr. Bogle, that the Society's books be audited by Mr. Clarke and Mr. J. G. Barrant. At this juncture the meeting adjourned.

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Guy's Hill (St. Mary).—The ordinary monthly meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday, February 3rd, two weeks earlier than usual to meet the convenience of Mr. W. Cradwick, Agricultural Instructor, with whom arrangements had been made for a visit. There were present, beside Mr. Cradwick, Rev. A. E. Lewis, Vice-president, the Secretary, fourteen members and two visitors. The President, Mr. C. B. Evelyn, and Mr. Sydney Murray, came in after the reading of the minutes. The chair was taken by the Vice-president in attendance. On the reading and confirmation of the minutes, it having been shown that there was no business of vital importance, it was proposed and unanimously agreed to that the afternon be given to Mr. Cradwick's lecture, so that the audience get the full benefit of his presence. He was accordingly asked to speak and the address given was indeed inspiring and encouraging and it was greatly appreciated by those present. Among other things the Instructor urged the importance of interest in Agricultural Shows and pressed the possibility of successful competition from a district so favourably situated. On being asked, Mr. Cradwick promised to visit Mr. R. T. Thompson's property near Benbow on his next visit, for the purpose of giving practical illustrations in the field. A few questions were asked and satisfactory answers given where it was possible. The lecturer was thanked for his instructive address and the meeting closed.

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St. Faith's (St. Catherine).—A special meeting of this Branch was held in the Grateful Hill Schoolroom on the 1st February, 1910. A. Carey, Esq., presided and there were about seventy ladies and gentlemen present, among them Mr. George Payne, visitor and Mr. Briscoe, Travelling In-

structor. Mr. Hanson presented his report as delegate to the Half-yearly General Meeting. The report was well received and a vote of thanks moved by Rev. T. M. Sherlock and seconded by the President, was unanimously carried. Mr. Payne was asked to speak. He was very pleased he said, at being present, and at seeing such a large attendance. He offered some valuable hints on the rearing of stock. Among pigs he recommended those descended from China boars as among the best. They are quiet and contented. He dwelt on the rearing of cattle, strongly recommending the introduction of some Indian blood into our Jamaica cattle. The Zebu was his favourite. They were useful in draft, and tamer than Mysore. His address was lucid, practical and instructive. A well-deserved vote of thanks, moved by the President, seconded by Mr. T. A. Thomas and supported by Rev. T. M. Sherlock, was unanimously carried. Mr. Briscoe waxed warm on the matter of the Show, which is fixed for the 17th March next at Glengoffe. He was heartily applauded at some points. Friday, the 18th February, was fixed for opening up the way to the Show grounds. The Parochial Board has been asked to improve their road leading past. Mr. Payne and Mr. Thomas G. Love were voted in as members.—A. P. HANSON, Secretary.

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Cambridge (St. Andrew).—A meeting of this Branch was held on the evening of Thursday, 30th December last, when the election of officers for the current year took place, resulting in the returning of the officers of last year, viz., Rev. S. T. A. Jones, President; Messrs. W. Johnson and R. Nelson, Vice-presidents, and Mr. R. A. Clare, Secretary, with Mr. D. A. Smart, Assistant Secretary. This election should have been held since last October, but the constant heavy rains, which began to fall during the latter part of August and finished up with the awful rainstorm of November, defeated every effort put forth to hold a meeting. The meeting dealt with the General Secretary's letter on proposed change in the Prize Holdings Competition, and decided in favour of another class being added for holdings above twenty and not over fifty acres. Another letter from the General Secretary *re* revised Praedial Larceny Law, was also placed before the meeting. After the law was read, Mr. Johnson moved for and named a Committee of twelve members to meet on 6th January, to select and nominate a person or persons who may be competent to act under the provisions of the law. We too, had our share of the late severe rains and fierce north winds. Fortunately the winds began when the rains were about to cease or else we would have had a violent storm. Cultivations of all kinds suffered and in many cases disappeared altogether. Coffee trees are left bare of leaves and berries. A few houses were swept away, and some others are rendered uninhabitable by the threatening condition of the lands on which they are built. Two lives were lost; the Mammee River overflowed its banks and carried away the little cottage in which a man and his nephew were sleeping during the night of Saturday, 6th November. As a result of the recent bad weather, there will be some amount of privation in store for our people. Mr. Briscoe, the Travelling Instructor, passed through these districts on 7th December. It is to be hoped he will make a good report on what he saw.—R. A. CLARE, Secretary.

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St. John's (St. Catherine).—A regular meeting of this Branch was held at Kitson Town on Tuesday, the 18th January, at 7 p.m. Present: Messrs. J. H. Gonzales, G. A. Bell, R. Maxwell, Charles Wright, William Burrell, T. J. Richards, George Morris and S. B. Banton, Secretary. The chair was taken by Mr. Gonzales. Letters were read (a) from J. Barclay, Esq., and (b) from the Hon. H. Cork. The management of the Penny Bank received attention and on the motion of the Secretary, the meeting went into Committee over the rules, when one was altered. There was an attempt to alter another which was abortive. On the motion of Mr. Banton, the following resolution was adopted:—"That this Society realising

that the ponds at Aylmers and Belmont can now be cleaned, and knowing that only nine weeks are left before the amount voted by the Board and sanctioned by the Government will lapse, *resolved* that the Board be again respectfully asked to authorise the cleaning immediately, as we are quite prepared to do the work at the price offered by the Board in accordance with the minutes of last October." On the motion of Mr. Charles Wright this resolution was also unanimously carried :—"That this Society begs to suggest that the cleaning of the ponds be started not later than the first day of February : for should there be any more delay the rains may set in and retard the cleaning." The appointment of "authorised persons to act in cases of praedial larceny, came up for consideration. Three of the five nominated at last meeting were present. They told the meeting what they had received from the Inspector of Constabulary. After a debate in which all took part, this resolution was carried :—"Knowing that in cases of praedial larceny many thieves may become troublesome and even boisterous and dangerous, by means of which the body and life of those who are carrying them may be endangered, *resolved* that the Government as well as the Inspector General be approached in order that a similar bodily protection may be given to these "authorised persons" as is being done to the district constables." Since the flood is over we are experiencing a sharp drought. Rains have fallen in the St. Thomas-ye-Vale and other districts it would appear, from the thunderings, etc., but as for Lower St. John's, everything is practically parching. As for the small settlers' donkeys, these creatures are giving their owners some anxiety, as there is hardly anything for them to graze. On the motion of the Secretary the meeting, after the singing of the National Anthem, adjourned until the 15th February, when the annual general meeting will be held.—S. A. BANTON, Secretary.

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Smithville (Clarendon).—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held on Friday, February 4th, 1910. There were present Messrs. W. S. Reid, President; J. Hirst, Agricultural Instructor; Mrs. J. Deacon, Miss Grange Mrs. Isadore Edwards and twenty-four other members. The Secretary read a letter from the Colonial Secretary in answer to a resolution from this Society to the Governor in matter of the driving road from Thompson Town to Smithville, to the effect "that the matter has been duly considered and will not be forgotten when the Estimates for 1910-11 are being prepared." A letter from W. Cradwick, Esq., *re* co-operation of Branch Societies with the St. George's Branch in the matter of collective exhibits to their forthcoming Show on 1st August, 1910, was read. This Society regrets its inability to comply with the request as the project would entail a lot of inconvenience and worry to get these exhibits fourteen miles to a railway station over very bad roads. It was proposed to form a Branch of the S.P.A.J. in connection with this Agricultural Society. Mr. Hirst spoke on the object of the S.P.A.J. and pledged his warmest support. The date of the Smithville Show was fixed for April 12th, 1910. The members are busy preparing for it. The following gentlemen are subscribers to the funds of the Show : L. Sutton, Esq., 21/-; D. Horn, Esq., 21/; R. Craig, Esq., 10/6; Hon. H. H. Cousins, 5/. Mr. Hirst gave very valuable hints on the preparation of exhibits for the Show and encouraged the members to take very great pains and to exercise the greatest care in getting up these exhibits. The meeting extends its sincere sympathy to Mrs. Charles Dove, widow of deceased Charles Dove, who was an active member of this Society and who succumbed to death on the 31st January, after a few months' illness. Mr. Silas Thomas rendered a beautiful song and received the hearty applause of the meeting. The Show Committee will meet on the 18th instant. At the March meeting of the Society Mr. J. A. Beckford will read a paper on the "Future of Upper Clarendon;" Mr. W. Bryan, a paper on "How to Improve the District;" Mr. Amos Russell will lead in a discussion on Yam Cultivation and Mr. F. McLymont will render a song.—J. EDWARDS, Secretary.